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Docket No.: SEM-0007
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kenichi Kubota et al.

Application No.: 10/541,385

Confirmation No.: 3260

Filed: July 1, 2005

Art Unit: 2816

For: SWITCHING CIRCUIT

Examiner: D. T. Le

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

- A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98
- excluding a copy of U.S. patent or U.S. patent application publication as waived by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, since this application was filed after June 30, 2003 or has entered the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after June 30, 2003 (1276 OG 55).

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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Concise Explanation of Relevancy of the Document

- Documents having neither English translation nor English abstract have been cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or international application, or its related application. A copy of communication and partial translation of Office Action of Japan Patent Office are attached hereto (Translation of written requirement rejection is omitted therein). In the attached list, Document AA corresponds to Document BA. English translations of Documents BA, BB, BC and BD are not readily available; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609).
- This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, but before payment of the Issue Fee (37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)). Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. The Patent Office is authorized to charge deposit account 18-0013 in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 CFR §§ 1.97(d) (2) and 1.17(p) in view of the statement below.
- Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1).
- Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-0013 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

January 12, 2007

By 

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PTO/SB/08A/B (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/541,385-Conf. #3260
				Filing Date	July 1, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Kenichi Kubota
				Art Unit	2816
				Examiner Name	D. T. Le
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	SEM-0007

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
AA*	US-6,424,131-B1	07-23-2002	Yasunori YAMAMOTO et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	BA	WO-00/79682-A1	12-28-2000	Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BB	JP-2000-235424-A	08-29-2000	Yazaki Corporation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BC	EP-0890844-A2	01-13-1999	Mannesmann VDO Aktiengesellschaft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BD	JP-H07-113826-A	05-02-1995	Motorola Inc.,	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. * CITE NO.: Those application(s) which are marked with an single asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not supplied (under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(iii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.			
		²			
	CA	Office Action mailed on December 13, 2006 (Japan).			
	CB	Partial Translation of the JPO Office Action.			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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